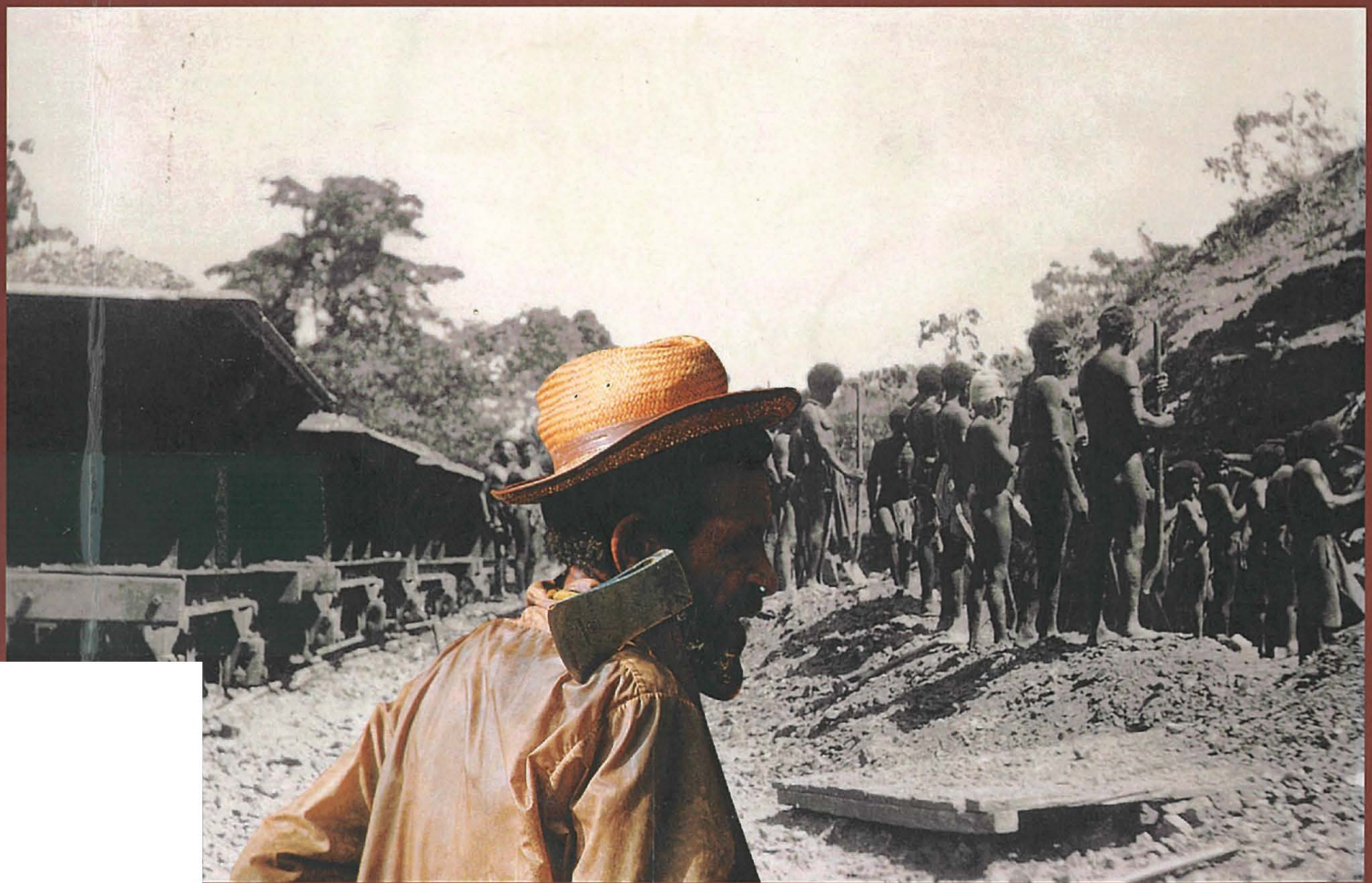


CONTINUITY & CHANGE

A HUMAN GEOGRAPHY
OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA



DAVID KING

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Continuity and Change is the first composite geography of Papua New Guinea to have been produced since the early 1970s. During the past two decades the nation has changed dramatically as it entered into independence and has had to confront the issues and problems of large-scale mining, agricultural and economic restructuring, secessionism, and new environmental and urban issues and problems. At the same time, Papua New Guinea has achieved a high rate of economic growth from a low base level – the highest increase in gross domestic product in the world in 1993. Despite such rapid change, societies throughout Papua New Guinea have sustained many features of their cultures and lifestyles, linking them in a continuity with the past. This book takes a historical geographical view of these themes of change and continuity in the geography and economy of Papua New Guinea, with emphasis on the human geography. Starting from the physical constraints of the country, its changing geography is examined from prehistory, through the historical impacts of the colonial period, to the post-independence issues of urban growth, migration, agricultural restructuring, mining, environmental issues and the political geography of Papua New Guinea. Case studies of societies and places are drawn from all parts of the country, representing a summary of an extensive range of studies of Papua New Guinean societies.

David King taught Human Geography at the University of Papua New Guinea for nine years during the 1980s and carried out extensive fieldwork throughout the country. He is now Senior Lecturer in the Department of Tropical Environment Studies and Geography at James Cook University of North Queensland, and continues to visit Papua New Guinea as a consultant on social and economic impacts of mining and development projects.

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